

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

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1973 FISHING REGULATIONS

(1) FISHING PERMIT:

A current annual non-fee fishing permit is required and shall be in the possession of all persons twelve years of age and older who are fishing in the waters of Yellowstone National Park. Said permit shall be displayed on demand of any authorized representative of the Superintendent.

(2) OPEN FISHING SEASON:

1. All rivers and creeks in the Yellowstone River drainage above the Upper Falls at Canyon, except as otherwise provided in Section (3) of these regulations, are open to fishing from 4:00 A.M., MST, on July 15, to 9:00 P.M., MST, on October 31. Rivers and creeks will include those portions of Yellowstone Lake marked by buoys within 100 yards of the river or creek inlet.
2. All lakes in the Yellowstone River drainage above the Upper Falls at Canyon, except as otherwise provided in Section (3) of these regulations, are open to fishing from 4:00 A.M., MST, on June 15, to 9:00 P.M., MST, on October 31. The marking buoys in the vicinity of the outlet of Yellowstone Lake shall define the northern limit of Yellowstone Lake.
3. All other waters, except as provided in Section (3) of these regulations, are open to fishing from 4:00 A.M., MST, on May 28, to 9:00 P.M., MST, on October 31.

(3) CLOSED WATERS:

The following waters of the park are closed to fishing and are so designated by appropriate signs:

1. Pelican Creek from its mouth to a point two miles upstream.
2. The Yellowstone River and its tributary streams from the Yellowstone Lake outlet to a point one mile downstream.
3. The Yellowstone River and its tributary streams from the confluence of Alum Creek with the Yellowstone River upstream to the Sulphur Caldron.
4. The Yellowstone River from the top of the Upper Falls downstream to a point directly below the overlook known as Inspiration Point.
5. Bridge Bay Lagoon and Marina and Grant Village and Marina and their connecting channels with Yellowstone Lake.
6. Fishing is prohibited from the shores of the southern extreme of the West Thumb thermal area (posted) along the shore of Yellowstone Lake to the mouth of Little Thumb Creek.
7. The Mammoth water supply reservoir.
8. Old Faithful water supply consisting of that section of the Firehole River from the Old Faithful water intake to the Shoshone Lake trail crossing above Lone Star Geyser.
9. Other park waters not specifically identified may, by the conspicuous posting of signs, be temporarily closed to fishing for spawning or research study purposes.

(4) DAILY FISHING PERIOD:

Fishing in those waters of the park that are open is permitted only between the hours of 4:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., MST, or 5:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M., MDT.

(5) CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS:

Catch and release shall mean that all fish caught shall be carefully and immediately returned to the water from which they were taken. The following waters of the park are designated as catch and release waters:

1. Yellowstone River from one mile below the Yellowstone Lake outlet downstream to the Sulphur Caldron.
2. Yellowstone River from Alum Creek downstream to the Upper Falls.
3. Slough Creek proper and McBride Lake.
4. Lamar River proper from its confluence with the Yellowstone River upstream to the mouth of Cache Creek.
5. Lewis River proper below Lewis Falls.

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(6) DAILY LIMITS BY WATERS:

Daily limit shall mean the numbers, sizes, or species of fish that may be legally taken from specified waters during the legal fishing hours of a day. All fish a person does not elect to keep in possession shall be carefully and immediately returned to the water from which they were taken.

1. The possession of grayling caught in park waters is prohibited (catch-and-release fishing only).
2. Firehole and Madison Rivers, Lower Gibbon River up to the base of Gibbon Falls: two (2) fish, 16 inches or longer.
3. Yellowstone Lake (except as provided in Sections (2) and (3) of these regulations): two (2) fish, 14 inches or longer.
4. Gardner River drainage above Osprey Falls, Glen Creek drainage above Rustic Falls, Lava Creek drainage above Undine Falls, and Blacktail Deer Creek drainage including Blacktail Ponds: five (5) fish, any size, of which at least three (3) must be brook trout.
5. All other waters open to fishing other than catch-and-release waters: two (2) fish, any size.

(7) POSSESSION LIMIT:

Possession limit shall mean the numbers or species of fish taken within Yellowstone National Park which may be in the possession of a person, regardless if fresh, stored in freezers or ice chests, or otherwise preserved. A person must cease fishing immediately upon filling his possession limit.

The possession limit is five (5) fish of which at least three (3) must be brook trout. The possession of grayling is prohibited.

(8) RESTRICTION OF USE OF LINES, BAIT AND LURES:

1. Each person fishing in park waters shall use only one rod or line held in the hand. Any fish hooked other than in the mouth shall be carefully and immediately returned to the water from which taken.
2. Only artificial flies on single hook or lures with one single, double, or treble hook may be used in park waters except as specified in the following subparagraphs.
3. Only artificial flies on a single hook may be used for fishing in the Firehole River, Madison River, and that section of the Gibbon River extending from the mouth of the stream to the base of Gibbon Falls.
4. When in the possession of any fishing equipment and while immediately adjacent to or on waters of the park, no person shall possess any fish bait (e.g. worms, insects, minnows, fish eggs, or other organic matter, or parts thereof) or fish lures, except as provided for in subparagraphs 2, 3, and 5 of this Section.
5. Persons 12 years of age or under may fish with worms as bait on the Gardner River, Obsidian Creek, Indian Creek, and Panther Creek.

IDENTIFICATION OF PROTECTED SPECIES

Killing or possessing grayling is prohibited. All those caught must be returned unharmed to the water. They are easily identified by their extremely large dorsal fin. (See illustration below.)



GRAYLING

A color plate, showing all the park sport fish, is available free of charge at park information stations.